

1968, not concluded until the ratification in May, and this last step may well be our most important one.

Let all our people know that the word will come forth from this moment on: that a new government has been formed to fill their wants and needs, created not in fear of them, but with concern for their welfare.

Mr. President, I am still impatient to hear my name called, but I shall contain myself, content in the knowledge that there will be a better Maryland tomorrow, and we helped to make it so.

*(The delegates rose and applauded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant-at-Arms and the Secretary will please come forward with the Constitution.

*(The Sergeant-at-Arms and the Secretary brought the draft constitution into the chamber of the House of Delegates and placed it on the historic desk from the old Senate Chamber.)*

THE PRESIDENT: As we reach this most important of all moments in our deliberations and the President must leave the Chair in order to certify the new Constitution with the Secretary, I am reminded that many times during our deliberations the First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President have presided, and on at least one occasion, a bewildered delegate was called upon to assume the Chair without any prior notice and not being entirely certain what was going on at the moment. But at no time have we had the privilege of having our Honorary President assume the Chair.

It gives me great pleasure now to request Delegate J. Millard Tawes to take the Chair.

*(Applause.)*

*(At this point, Honorary President J. Millard Tawes assumed the Chair.)*

HONORARY PRESIDENT TAWES: Little did I ever realize that I would have any opportunity to preside over any sessions of this Convention, but the time has come when we have a few ceremonial duties to perform, and I have been requested by the Chairman of the Committee for Special Presentations to occupy the Chair for these few brief moments.

I should like to request Delegate E. J. Clarke, the Chairman of the Committee for Special Presentations, please to join

me here on the postrum for the purpose of assisting in these presentations.

I should now request the First Vice-President, James Clark, and Second Vice-President, Senator William James, if they will please escort Mrs. H. Vernon Eney to the rostrum.

Mrs. Eney insisted on a very, very special seat in the balcony all during this Convention, and she insisted on sitting there this morning. That is the reason for the little delay.

Mrs. Eney, will you please come to the rostrum assisted by Vice-Presidents James and Clark?

*(The Convention rose and applauded as Mrs. H. Vernon Eney was escorted to the rostrum by Vice-Presidents Clark and James.)*

HONORARY PRESIDENT TAWES: Now, I should like to yield to the Chairman of the Committee for Special Presentations at this time, Delegate E. J. Clarke.

DELEGATE E. CLARKE: Will Delegate Addie J. Key please proceed to the rostrum with a token of our appreciation for Mrs. Eney?

*(Delegate Addie J. Key presented Mrs. H. Vernon Eney with a bouquet of yellow roses.)*

*(Applause.)*

DELEGATE KEY: Mrs. Eney, the flowers which I have just placed in your arms are more than just a bouquet of roses. They are the love that is stored in the hearts of all of us, the love that has grown through the months as we looked at your smiling face in the midst of all the heat. It was so cool to our furrowed brows.

You are truly the First Lady of this Convention.

*(The delegates rose and applauded.)*

MRS. H. VERNON ENEY: As the Committee on Style could never, never improve on the language of flowers, I move that I accept these with the greatest of heartfelt thanks.

*(Applause.)*

DELEGATE E. CLARKE: Would Delegate Beachley and Delegate Ulrich please escort President Eney to the rostrum?

*(President Eney was escorted to the rostrum by Delegate Beachley and Delegate Ulrich.)*